

The Ventra app we're wishing for **4**

Cubs, Sox who've slid across town **9**

**red
eye**

Tuesday
MARCH 24, 2015

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

THE RIGHT STUFF

With Chicago studio, teaching gigs
abroad, 24-year-old taxidermist
gives old hobby new life **12-13**

Mickey Alice Kwapis
and a pheasant she
taxidermied
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



EAT

FREE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY Hotel Palomar

505 N. State St. 312-755-9704

Spread across the lobby and Sable Kitchen & Bar's lounge, both of which recently were renovated, the bash includes cocktails and bites such as **pork belly BLTs** from the restaurant's original menu, live jazz music and a pop-up art gallery. 5-7 p.m.

DRINK

SCOTCH DINNER Third Rail Tavern

1133 W. Madison St. 312-432-9107

The five-course dinner includes pours of Chivas Regal 12 year, Glenlivet Nadurra 16 year and Chivas' Royal Salute 21 year. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$35.

WOMEN AND WHISKEY NIGHT Fado Irish Pub

100 W. Grand Ave. 312-836-0066

Tullamore Dew brand ambassador Mary-Jade Hynes leads a tasting of four of the brand's whiskeys paired with charcuterie, shrimp tempura and other bites. 7-10 p.m. \$20. Tickets: fadoirishpub.com/chicago



BUBBLY BOOT CAMP The Boarding House

720 N. Wells St. 312-280-0720

Sample six sparkling wines from California, Italy, Spain and France and learn how to select a bottle for any occasion at this tasting hosted by master sommelier **Alpana Singh**. 6:30-8 p.m. \$39. Tickets: boardinghousechicago.com

DO

'OUR BAD MAGNET'

Angel Island Theater 735 W. Sheridan Road 773-871-0442

Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co. restages its Jeff Award-nominated production of the Scottish dark comedy, which tells the story of three men who reunite to try to figure out what led to the disappearance of a childhood friend. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: maryarrchie.com

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

All menu items are half-price at Fabulous Freddies (701 W. 31st St.) Tuesday for its annual Customer Appreciation Day.



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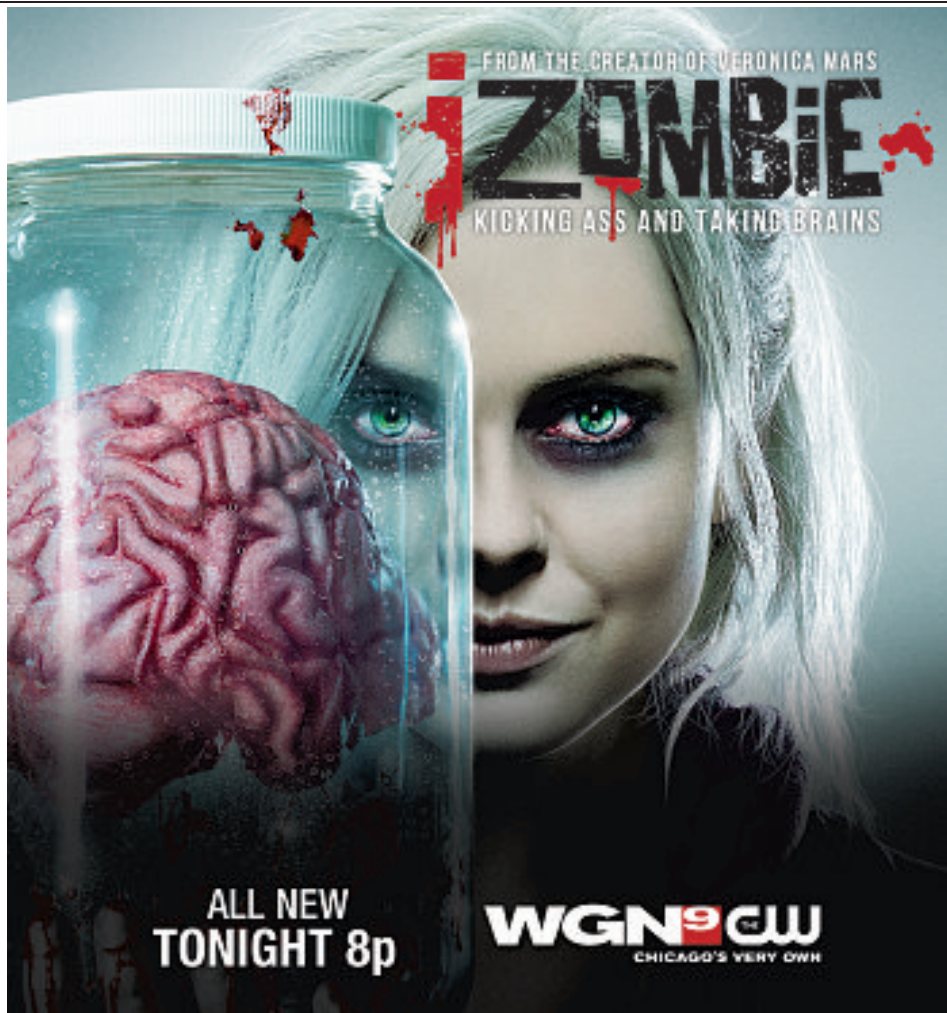
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DISPLACED WRIGLEY FIELD BLEACHER
SEASON-TICKET HOLDERS COMPLAIN, ADJUST

BLEACHER BLUES

Chicago Tribune

With opening day on the horizon and the Wrigley Field bleachers resembling an erector set, some denizens of the most famous fan section in sports are wondering if life would ever be the same.

The bleacher season-ticket holders are temporarily without a home, and some blame the Cubs for catering to a younger crowd that drinks more and pays more attention to their smartphones than the game itself.

"It's all about the party," veteran bleacherite Linda Eisenberg said.

The Wrigley bleachers have been gutted this offseason to add lucrative patio sections, two jumbo-sized video boards and signage as part of the Ricketts family's \$575 million renovation plan known as the "1060 Project."

Team management misjudged the effects of a harsh Chicago winter on the construction timeline, ensuring the bleachers would not be ready for the start of the season, which begins April 5 against the Cardinals.

The Cubs insist the left field bleachers will be ready by May 11, with the right field bleachers slated to open sometime in June. Bleacher season-ticket holders were offered refunds or down payments on next year's tickets, or relo-



The right field bleachers on Monday
JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

cation to seats in the "bowl" area, which some found lacking.

"The seats that were available weren't that good—either upper deck or back of terrace," bleacher season-ticket holder Donna Wakefield said. "Not good."

So what to do?

Wakefield, who is part of a group that calls themselves "Bleacher Refugees" and have had buttons and T-shirts made with the moniker, took the money. Tim Shockley, another bleacher-season ticket holder, said most of

the bleacherites he knows also opted for refunds, figuring the early season games are played in miserable weather anyway.

"If it was in the middle of summer, I'd really be [ticked]," he said. "There are more night games affected than day games, and we're not big fans of night games—it's a different crowd."

After getting her \$440 refund for 15 games, Eisenberg, a right-field regular, will miss her first Cubs opener in so long she can't remember the last time it happened.

"This totally [ticks] me off, and I'm not drinking the Kool-Aid that this is the year," she said. "If you have to fix the ballpark, why are you starting in the bleachers? The bleachers were redone 10 years ago, and now they're re-doing them again?"

Season-ticket holder Rich Skinner also opted for the refund, and wished the Cubs had done more to appease the refugees.

"Some benefits or some type of incentives would've been great," he said. "We have not seen that yet. ... Now there are all these rumors floating around that they won't be open until even later, and they haven't really communicated that information back to us. At this point, I don't know if I'll be watching any games in the bleachers this year."

DIFFERENT ERA, SAME ARGUMENT

Things change, but woeful Cubs fans don't. Here's a look at the many "end of the bleachers" moments at Wrigley Field in the past.

- » In the 1980s, fans upset about the idea of Tribune Co. adding lights wore bright yellow "No Lights in Wrigley!" T-shirts with a depiction of the Wrigley marquee.
- » In 1985, the Cubs announced they'd sell the \$3.50 tickets in advance for the first time.
- » Later during the 1985 season, the team added a no-alcohol "family section" near the left foul pole.
- » On Opening Day in 1988, the Cubs banned beer vendors from roaming the "cheap" seats.
- » Last rites for the bleachers were held again in 2006 after a \$13.5 million renovation project added 1,790 seats, and again in 2012 when the Cubs added an exclusive patio section and LED board in far right field.

Will the influx of patio dwellers change the bleacher atmosphere for good?

Shockley agrees the "patio-ites" are overwhelming the bleacherites and spend much of the game "looking at Waveland or Kenmore, the opposite direction of what's going on." But he said he's "realistic" about the changes and everyone will get used to the changes.

"At first, everyone was freaking out and screaming bloody murder—'This is outrageous, it should be like it was in the '60s,' " Shockley said. "I'm like 'No, we [stunk] most of the '60s.' A lot of people don't want to move on and upgrade [Wrigley]. But hey, you need revenue to make investments [in the team], and you need more seats for new revenue."

"As far as I'm concerned, they have good baseball management now and we just have to change with the times. It's like a mom-and-pop store going national. It's up to you whether to still buy the product or just stay home and pout."

EARLY VOTING IN CHICAGO NOW THRU APRIL 4!

- Voters don't need a reason or excuse to vote early.
- Chicago voters may use any of the City's 51 sites.
- Government photo ID required during Early Voting.



March 23 - April 4, 2015

HOURS FOR ALL SITES: Mon-Sat - 9 am-5 pm / Sun Mar 29 - 9 am-3 pm

WARD	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1	Goldblatts Building	1615 W. Chicago Ave.
2	Access Living	115 W. Chicago Ave.
3	Chicago Bee Library	3647 S. State St.
4	M L King Community Ctr	4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
5	Jackson Park	6401 S. Stony Island Ave.
6	Whitney Young Library	7901 S. M. L. King Jr. Dr.
7	Jeffery Manor Library	2401 E. 100th St.
8	Olive Harvey College	10001 S. Woodlawn Ave.
9	Palmer Park	201 E. 111th St.
10	Vodak/East Side Library	3710 E. 106th St.
11	9 District Police	3120 S. Halsted St.
12	McKinley Park	2210 W. Pershing Rd.
13	West Lawn Park	4233 W. 65th St.
14	Archer Heights Library	5055 S. Archer Ave.
15	Gage Park	2411 W 55th St.
16	Lindblom Park	6054 S. Damen Ave.
17	Thurgood Marshall Library	7506 S. Racine Ave.
18	Wrightwood-Ashburn Library	8530 S. Kedzie Ave.
19	Mount Greenwood Park	3721 W. 111th St.
20	Coleman Library	731 E. 63rd St.
21	Woodson Regional Library	9525 S. Halsted St.
22	Piotrowski Park	4247 W. 31st St.
23	Clearing Library	6423 W. 63rd Pl.
24	Douglass Library	3353 W. 13th St.
25	Chinatown Library	2353 S. Wentworth Ave.
26	Humboldt Park Library	1605 N. Troy St.
27	Eckhart Park	1330 W. Chicago Ave.
28	West Side Learning Ctr	4624 W. Madison St.
29	Amundsen Park	6200 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
30	Kilbourn Park	3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.
31	Portage Cragin Library	5108 W. Belmont Ave.
32	Bucktown-Wicker Park Library	1701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
33	Horner Park	2741 W. Montrose Ave.
34	West Pullman Library	830 W. 119th St.
35	Independence Library	3548 W. Irving Park Rd.
36	West Belmont Library	3104 N. Narragansett Ave.
37	West Chicago Library	4856 W. Chicago Ave.
38	Hiawatha Park	8029 W. Forest Preserve Dr.
39	N. Park Village Admn Bldg	5801 N. Pulaski Rd.
40	Budlong Woods Library	5630 N. Lincoln Ave.
41	Roden Library	6083 N. Northwest Hwy.
42	Museum of Broadcast Communications	360 N. State St.
43	Lincoln Park Library	1150 W. Fullerton Ave.
44	Merlo Library	644 W. Belmont Ave.
45	16 District Police	5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.
46	Truman College	1145 W. Wilson Ave.
47	Welles Park	2333 W. Sunnyside Ave.
48	Edgewater Library	6000 N. Broadway
49	Pottawattomie Park	7340 N. Rogers Ave.
50	Warren Park	6601 N. Western Ave.
Board of Elections 69 W. Washington St.		Lower Level Conf. Room

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What features should the Ventra app have?



GOING PUBLIC

Tracy Swartz

» tswartz@redye.chicago.com
» @tracyswartz

If only it could save you a seat on the train.

A forthcoming Ventra app, which would let public transit riders use their smartphones to buy fares for the CTA, Metra and the Pace suburban bus system, may not seem revolutionary to CTA riders—at least initially.

Many of the CTA features slated to be offered in the early version of the Ventra smartphone app, including adding money to a Ventra card and checking card balances, already are available at ventrachicago.com and at rail vending machines.

Transit officials plan to make the Ventra app, which can be used on Android devices and iPhones, available to the public for download in May and roll out additional features in increments after that. The most innovative function likely will come in early 2016, when CTA riders should be able to tap their phones, instead of their Ventra cards, on bus and rail readers to gain entry, said Tony Coppoletta, CTA manager of external electronic communications.

Chicago app expert Derek Eder said the transit agencies could think bigger in their design of the Ventra app to include how to connect to other modes of transportation, including Divvy shared bikes and Amtrak. The Ventra app will include a trip planner for CTA, Metra and Pace, Coppoletta said.

"It would be nice if there was a one-stop shop for everything," said Eder, partner and founder at DataMade, a Chicago-based civic technology company.

Eder said the Ventra app also could include maps of stations to display where riders can enter and exit. For now, the CTA isn't planning to add such a feature, transit officials said last week, after giving reporters a

sneak preview of the app.

Metra riders likely will benefit the most from the initial rollout of the app because they would be able to purchase tickets to show Metra conductors on their phones instead of waiting in line at a vending machine to buy tickets.

CTA riders who occasionally ride Metra also would be able to use the app to pay for Metra tickets with money already stored on their Ventra cards, an option currently not available at Metra stations.

TESTERS NEEDED

For now, CTA, Metra and Pace officials are looking for 100 volunteers to test the app next month. Riders can sign up at transitchicago.com until April 3 to be considered for the test, CTA spokeswoman Tammy Chase said.

The CTA did not offer this type of testing opportunity to the public before the agency's disastrous transition to Ventra in 2013.

As the agencies ready for public testing, RedEye has created a wish list—both realistic and far-fetched—of functions we'd like to see for the Ventra app.

CUSTOMER SERVICE RANTS

Lost your Ventra card? Have a balance discrepancy? Riders may find it helpful to use the app to contact customer service without having to make a phone call or wait in line at the Ventra office at 165 N. Jefferson St., on the Near West Side. Coppoletta said there are no plans to add a customer service feature to the app.

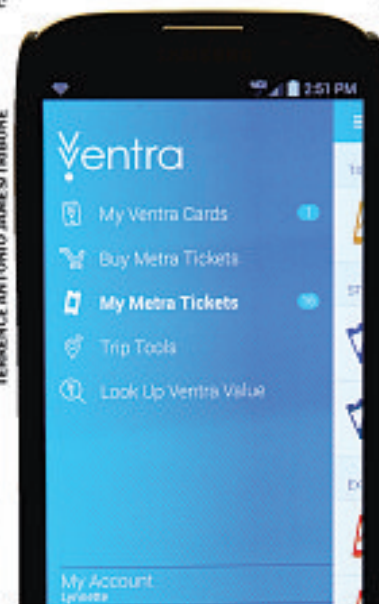
STATION HACKS

Coppoletta said he hopes visitors to Chicago, as well as regular CTA riders, use the app. But the CTA may be overwhelming to newbies.

Hacks that tell riders which bus stops have shelters to shield them from the elements and which rail stations are near major Chicago landmarks could be beneficial. The app will have trip planning tools, Coppoletta said, but they look similar to the CTA's current bus and train tracking system.

SMELLS ON THE 'L'

A community feature on the Ventra app could let riders alert others riders to avoid certain rail stations because of puddles or rail cars if someone has pooped on a train. Forget train tracker. A stain tracker may be more helpful.



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TUESDAY
40²⁸
 Storm time

WEDNESDAY
50⁴⁰
 Ughhh

THURSDAY
44³⁵
 Gray day


Jussie Smollett and Bryshere "Yazz" Gray of Fox's "Empire" are set to sign copies of the show's soundtrack Friday at the Harold Washington Cultural Center in Bronzeville.



Cold and snowy conditions did not stop a man from wearing gym shorts on Van Buren Street on Monday. Three to 6 inches of snow hit the Chicago area overnight and Monday morning, affecting vehicle traffic on roadways as well as sidewalks for pedestrians. **PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE**

Record number of ballots on 1st day of runoff early voting

By **Leonor Vivanco** | REDEYE

Despite Monday's snow flurries in Chicago, thousands of voters took time to cast ballots on the first day of early voting for the April 7 runoff election.

As of 5:15 p.m. Monday, 7,915 ballots were cast, according to an unofficial total provided by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. That beats the previous record for ballots cast on the first day of early voting in a Chicago municipal election, which was 6,133 ballots ahead of the 2011 city election, according to the city's election data.

"We're very pleased. It's a good indicator of how early voting is going to go for rest of the way," spokesman Jim Allen said, adding that a good start doesn't mean the runoff election will have a higher voter turnout.

The runoff election pits Mayor Emanuel against Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia. There are 18 wards with aldermanic races.

Early voting continues through April 4.

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Treasurer's collectibles auction raises \$92,653

Chicago Tribune

The Illinois treasurer's office took in almost \$92,653 in an auction of lost items last week, 53 percent more than the expected amount of \$60,425.

The online auction drew 545 new bidders compared with previous sales, according to Greg Rivara, spokesman for the treasurer's office.

The top item out of the 16,200 commemorative coins, jewelry, baseball cards and comic books auctioned March 16-20 was an 1894 Morgan silver dollar, which sold for \$4,550.

Other high-rolling lots included one with a \$50 liberty eagle 1-ounce gold piece, which sold for \$2,775, and one with a Rookwood Pottery vase that went for \$1,075.

A lot with a Chicago Cubs 1965 Ernie Banks baseball card and a Chicago White Sox Frank Thomas signed rookie card sold for \$685.

Historically, some of the items that have



An 1894 Morgan silver dollar sold for \$4,550 at the Illinois treasurer's online auction.

brought the highest bids were 383 Roosevelt dimes that went for \$10,520 in 2012 and five 1947 Mexican pesos that went for \$10,050 in 2013.

The items are appraised by an outside ven-

dor and grouped together to increase interest, according to the treasurer's office. The money raised at auction is set aside in case someone wants to collect it, Rivara said, and the interest is used to pay bills for the state.

All of the items that were auctioned had been untouched for at least 10 years—five years in a bank's dormant account and five years at the treasurer's office, according to Treasurer Michael Frerichs.

The office continues to encourage Illinois residents to look up lost items by clicking on the I-Cash button at illinoistreasurer.gov, Rivara said. The office holds more than \$2.1 billion in unclaimed cash and property, which includes unclaimed safe deposit box items, lost payroll checks and lost bank accounts.

"Items are added each year," Rivara said. "We are encouraging individuals to make sure to check one to two times a year at minimum."

EXPRESS LINES

- » Chicago police are investigating the death of a man who was found on a CTA train early Monday morning at the O'Hare Airport Blue Line terminal.
- » Martese Johnson, 20, a University of Virginia student from Chicago, will plead not guilty this week to two criminal charges stemming from a bloody arrest outside a Virginia bar that required him to get stitches, his attorney said Monday.
- » Tree House Humane Society, a no-kill cat shelter headquartered in Uptown, announced it will break ground next month on a new, expanded facility in Rogers Park that will feature a cat cafe.
- » A 17-year-old boy suffered gunshot wounds to the abdomen and arm after being shot Monday evening in the 3700 block of South Wabash Avenue, police said.

TRIBUNE

Police: No evidence of gang-rape at UVA

1 A five-month police investigation into an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia that Rolling Stone magazine described in graphic detail produced no evidence of the attack and was stymied by the accuser's unwillingness to cooperate, authorities said Monday.

The article, titled "A rape on campus," focused on a student identified only as "Jackie" who said she was raped at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity more than two years earlier.

It described a hidden culture of sexual violence fueled by binge drinking at the college.

Police said they found no evidence of that either.

There were numerous discrepancies between the article, published in November 2014, and what investigators found, said Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo, taking care not to accuse Jackie of lying.

The case is suspended, not closed, and the fact that investigators could not find evidence years later "doesn't mean that something terrible didn't happen to Jackie," Longo said.

He appealed for anyone with information about any sexual violence to immediately

alert police, and expressed hope that Jackie may one day feel comfortable explaining what really happened.

"There's a difference between a false allegation and something that happened that may have been different than what was described in that article," Longo said.

Asked if Jackie would be charged with making a false report, he said: "Absolutely not."

Jackie's attorney, Palma Pustilnik, said she would have no comment on the investigation.

Accurate or not, the article heightened scrutiny of campus sexual assaults amid a

campaign by President Obama to end them. The University of Virginia already had been on the Department of Education's list of 55 colleges under investigation for their handling of sex assault violations.

Investigators spoke to about 70 people, including friends of the accuser and fraternity members, and spent hundreds of hours on the investigation, Longo said. None provided any evidence supporting the claim of a gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi house. They gathered ample evidence casting doubt on Jackie's claims, he said.

2 Swift, Microsoft buy .porn suffixes

Taylor Swift, Microsoft Corp. and Harvard University are among those buying up .porn and .adult Web suffixes as a pre-emptive move before the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers makes those domain names available this summer. To check what brands, groups and celebrities have bought their domain names, visit icmregistry.com/domaincheck.

3 Yemen president calls for UN action

Yemen's embattled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi has asked Gulf countries and the United Nations to intervene militarily against Shiite rebels who have seized the capital and are advancing toward his new southern base, his foreign minister said Monday.

4 Troop data in kill list was not stolen

The names, photos and addresses of 100 U.S. military members posted to an online "kill list" by a group calling itself the Islamic State Hacking Division were not stolen from confidential government files, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Monday.

5 City of Light turns into City of Haze

In an attempt to improve air quality in Paris, authorities Monday enacted a 24-hour restriction on cars with even-numbered license plates, halving the number of cars entering the city and surrounding areas. A spike in air pollution has made the French capital one of the smoggiest cities in the world.



6 A Swallowtail butterfly prepares to land on some wisteria Monday, in Spring, Texas. Unlike in Chicago, temperatures were near 80 in the Houston area. AP PHOTO

Millionaire Durst will stay in jail before trial

7 Millionaire murder suspect Robert Durst is a flight risk and a danger to others, a judge decided Monday after considering what FBI agents found in his hotel room—an elaborate disguise and other escape tools fit for a spy movie.

Durst was arrested at the J.W. Marriott hotel in New Orleans, where he had registered under the name Everett Ward and was lying low while HBO aired the final chapters of his life story.

FBI agents recovered his passport and birth certificate, an apparently fake Texas ID, stacks of \$100 bills, bags of marijuana, .38-caliber revolver, a map folded to show Louisiana and Cuba, and a flesh-toned latex mask with salt-and-pepper hair.

"This was not a mask for Halloween"—it was a disguise extending down to the chest, Assistant District Attorney Mark Burton said.

Magistrate Harry Cantrell ordered Durst held without bond on weapons charges in Louisiana, and set a preliminary hearing for April 2, delaying his transfer to California to face murder charges in the death of Susan Berman in 2000 before she could speak with investigators about the disappearance of Durst's first wife, Kathleen, in 1982.



THE QUOTE

"Why seven? Seven beautiful lilies. So pure. So pure."

—Gabriel Sassoon, father of seven siblings, ages 5 to 16, who died in a New York house fire over the weekend, speaking Monday at their funeral in Jerusalem. Several thousand mourners, including friends and relatives of the Sassoon family, supporters, the chief rabbi of Israel and mayor of Jerusalem, attended the service.

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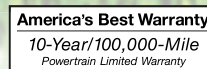
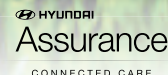
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SWAP FEST

TOM GORDON

With the Cubs in 2001-02, he compiled 27 saves and a 3.39 ERA. After finishing 2002 in Houston, Gordon landed with the Sox in 2003 and saved 12 games in 66 appearances.

KENNY LOFTON

Lofton was best known for his 10 years with Cleveland. However, he also played one year each for both Chicago teams briefly—the White Sox in 2002 and the Cubs in 2003.

RYAN SWEENEY

Yes, Sweeney is a Cubs outfielder three years running, but he was drafted by the Sox in 2003.

NEAL COTTS

Fun fact: Neal Cotts was the only White Sox relief pitcher to appear in the 2005 American League Championship Series. (The starters pitched all but two-thirds of an inning in five games). He was dealt to the Cubs in 2006 in a transaction that involved David Aardsma.

JAIME NAVARRO

Oh, Jaime Navarro. While he won 29 games for the Cubs in 1995 and '96 and compiled a respectable 3.62 ERA, he never lived up to the hype when he signed with the Sox as a free agent in 1996.

KOSUKE FUKUDOME

Fukudome got a taste of the playoffs with the Cubs in 2008, even earning an All-Star appearance. From there he went to Cleveland before landing with the Sox for all of 24 games in 2012.

JEFF SAMARDZIJA ISN'T THE ONLY CHICAGO BALLPLAYER TO SWITCH SIDES

By Laura Depta | FOR REDEYE

Spring training is winding down, and it still is bizarre to see Jeff Samardzija in a White Sox uniform. But there have been more than 150 players who suited up for both the Cubs and Sox in their MLB careers. Of course, only one man—Will Ferrell—managed to play for both teams on the same day, a feat that might never be equaled.

Along with Samardzija, here are 10 more North and South siders from recent memory, ranked from least significant in the rivalry to most.

LAURA DEPTA IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. @LAURADEPTA



EDWIN JACKSON

Name a major-league club and Jackson likely has played there. Well, eight of them anyway. He compiled a 3.66 ERA in 30 starts with the Sox but struggled with the 2014 Cubs and now is fighting for a spot in the starting rotation.

JUAN PIERRE

Not the biggest guy, but he used his speed to great advantage. Pierre stole 95 bases in two seasons with the Sox and 58 in one year on the North Side. Upon his recent

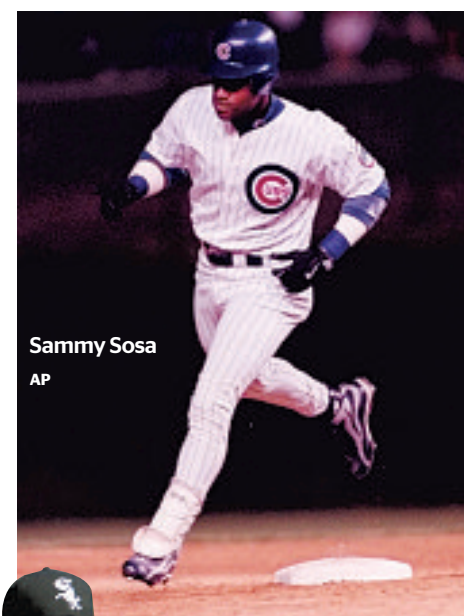
retirement from baseball after the 2013 season, Pierre thanked both organizations via social media.

BOB HOWRY

Bob Howry pitched his first five MLB seasons with the Sox (1998-2002). During that time, he compiled a 3.74 ERA in more than 322 innings of relief to go with 49 saves. He ended up with the Cubs in 2006 and is one of few players to playoff action on both sides of town (Sox in 2000, Cubs in 2007).

JEFF SAMARDZIJA

It could be a bit early to have Samardzija so high on the list. However, if his 2014 All-Star season is any indication (2.99 ERA, 202 strikeouts, mostly with the Cubs)

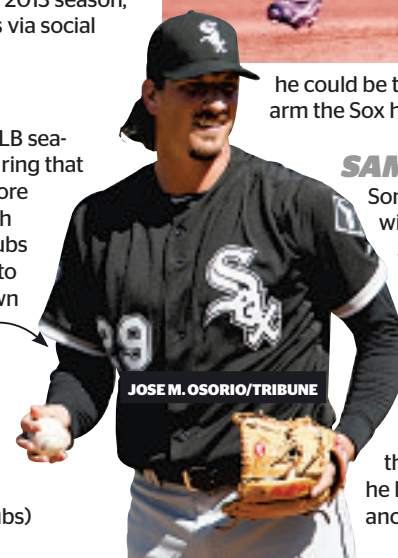


Sammy Sosa
AP

he could be the most important arm the Sox have added in a while.

SAMMY SOSA

Some days, the Sox might wish they had not traded Sosa to the Cubs in 1991. Other days, they're probably fine with it. Either way, Sosa's home run binges on the North Side were a blast for all who watched them at the time. How he hit them, of course, is another story.



JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

WAITING

This is when everyone discovers, "Oh, there are other things happening in March!"



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1	How will you pass the time until the NCAA tournament resumes?	List 82 reasons why the Bulls should squash that Fred Hoiberg-as-next-coach rumor.	Well, the new Surjan is streaming, so mostly crying alone.	Those cat memes never disappoint.	With no shoes squeaking or whistles blowing, I'll be enjoying the silence!	Shopping on my husband's credit card while he's distracted with the TV.
2	Create a pre-draft to-do list for the Bears.	Why? Nothing really matters until April 30-May 2. Save me a seat @RooseveltU.	1) Cut Cutler. 2) Sign Tebow. 3) Profit.	First, do everything to acquire Jameis Winston. Then, keep doing that until he's a Bear.	Tell Jay to get those little Cutlets vaccinated, and bring back the Honey Bears!	1) Draft quarterback. 2) Repeat Step 1.
3	How can the Hawks keep from looking at the standings?	One day at a time, just push the puck, boys (in my Coach Q voice).	Porn.	Forward the ESPN site to Rahm Emanuel's page on everyone's laptop.	By creating more awesome "One Goal" videos. Talk about tugging on those heartstrings, I cry at every one I watch!	Pull a Suge Knight and fake blindness.
4	Ever get sick of Russell Westbrook producing triple-doubles?	Nope. If I'm motivated watching Russ, I know Derrick should be too. No holding back, bro.	Yeah, move on to the double-triples already.	No, but the outfits he wears to discuss them are burning my retinas.	I'm more annoyed by his style. Call the fashion police on this Fresh Prince!	As long as he stays under 12, I'm good. #TeamJordan
5	When owners take it upon themselves to design stadiums we literally got urinated on (Purinetroughs), but let's wait and give a fair assessment in May.	... next thing you know, rappers will be designing clothing.	... Donald Sterling still won't want his mistresses to go anywhere near them.	... there's always room in the budget for a champagne room!	... no expense is spared! Except to the taxpayers.

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Fans need luck to see NFL draft

Registration for a chance to win two free tickets to the 2015 NFL draft in Chicago will begin Tuesday and continue through April 5, the league announced Monday.

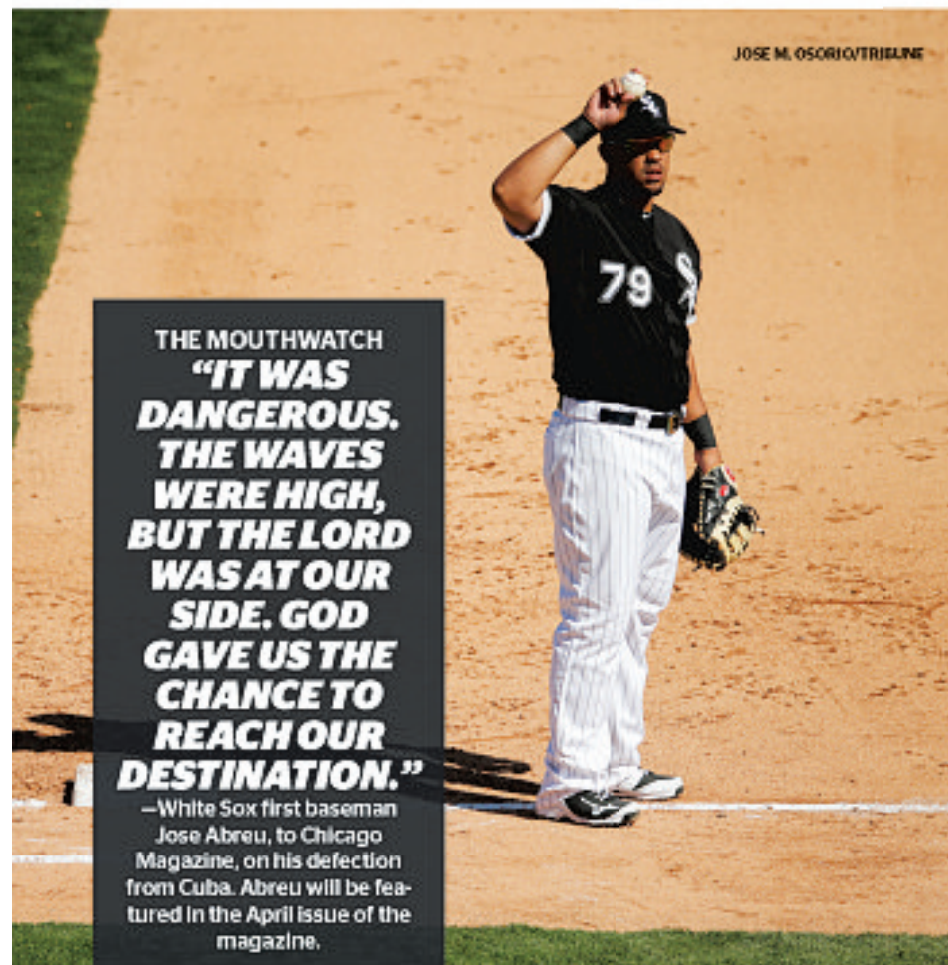
A limited number of tickets are available for both the Auditorium Theatre and "Selection Square" draft events.

The draft runs April 30-May 2 at Roosevelt University, with activities also planned for

Grant Park.

Fans can register at nfl.com/drafttown beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday, and continuing until 10:59 p.m. April 5. Winners will be randomly selected, the league said.

The NFL is implementing the lottery system in Chicago because of the Auditorium Theatre's small capacity relative to its former home at Radio City Music Hall in New York.



JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIANGLE

THE MOUTHWATCH
"IT WAS DANGEROUS. THE WAVES WERE HIGH, BUT THE LORD WAS AT OUR SIDE. GOD GAVE US THE CHANCE TO REACH OUR DESTINATION."
 —White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu, to Chicago Magazine, on his defection from Cuba. Abreu will be featured in the April issue of the magazine.

SHE'S THE FORGIVING TYPE

Mo'Ne Davis may be a teenager, but she's showing considerable maturity. Joey Casselberry was kicked off the Bloomsburg University baseball team after he sent out an offensive tweet regarding Disney Channel's plans to make a movie about the former Little League pitcher. Davis said Monday on ESPN's "SportsCenter" that she asked the university for Casselberry to be reinstated.

"Everyone makes mistakes. Everyone deserves a second chance," she said. "I know right now he's really hurt and I know how hard he worked to get to where he is right now. I was pretty hurt, but I know he's hurt even more."



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LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS

ANIMAL INSTINCTS

**CHICAGO IS A NATURAL HOME FOR THIS
24-YEAR-OLD TRAVELING TAXIDERMISTRY INSTRUCTOR**

By Gwendolyn Purdom | REDEYE

The memory is a little fuzzy, but Mickey Alice Kwapis does recall one unconventional childhood pastime that may have hinted at her future profession.

"[My grandfather] had a taxidermied bear in his basement, in his 'man lounge,' and I remember I would always take the tongue out of the bear and I would play with it," Kwapis said. "I would have like a Barbie and this taxidermied tongue."

Nearly two decades later, Kwapis, now 24, once again spends her time handling stuffed animal parts, only today she does it as a licensed taxidermist and internationally sought-after taxidermy instructor. A frustrated pre-law major at the University of Michigan only three years ago, the new Humboldt Park resident's whirlwind success relocated her in January from Cleveland to Chicago, where she and a fellow artistic science enthusiast are in the process of opening their own lab and teaching studio in the coming months.

Taxidermy had never crossed Kwapis' mind as an occupational option, even when she picked up the hobby after a friend enlisted her help with a mammalogy class project in college.

"I got to her house and she had a dead squirrel on her kitchen table with a bottle of wine," Kwapis said. Having grown up surrounded by animals her mom raised on a farm near their southeastern Michigan home, Kwapis developed a love of nature at a young age—as well as a level of comfort with death and other natural unpleasantnesses. That night, Kwapis and her classmate created a "study skin," the kind of basic stuffed specimen museums rely on, and soon Kwapis was picking up frozen feeder mice at pet stores to practice on, and incorporating animal bones into jewelry she sold at craft shows. It wasn't until an 11-year-old approached her booth at one Detroit street fair that everything changed.

"This little girl came up and goes, 'Are those real bones?' and I was prepared to be like, 'It's OK, little girl ...' and she was like, 'That's so cool!'" Kwapis said. "And she was like, 'Do you know how to do taxidermy?' and I was like '... yeah, actually I do.' And then she goes, 'Would you teach me?'"

Word of Kwapis' private lessons got out and invitations for her to teach in sold-out classrooms in Cleveland, London, Atlanta, Toronto and Brisbane, Australia, starting pouring in. In the years that followed, Kwapis studied under California taxidermist and popular Internet meme subject Chuck Testa, and has mounted everything from rats and guinea pigs to deer and kangaroos.

"It's just really neat to me to take something that's obviously a lifeless lump of furry meat and make something that looks alive again, and to inspire other people to be interested in that," Kwapis said.

Kwapis says her classes have drawn hipsters, doctors, stay-at-home moms and Girl Scout troops. Though taxidermy has histori-



cally been a male-dominated industry, Kwapis says women typically are the majority in her classrooms. Despite that shift, Kwapis still says her age, gender and appearance often are unexpected, especially when she's teaching abroad.

"I'm usually wearing a dress and I almost always have full makeup and red lipstick," she said. "It's fun to have that juxtaposition because people show up and they imagine some middle-aged man and it's me. It's always nice to surprise people."

She brings her own style to her teaching, too. Practicing what she's coined "sustainable taxidermy," Kwapis encourages students to let nothing go to waste and never to mount animals that were killed specifically for the art. Her methods use pregnancy-safe and child-safe materials, and she's an advocate of giving

back to the community she's taking from—while living in Cleveland she was certified to rehab baby animals, and last week she started a volunteer position with The Peggy Note-

baert Nature Museum in Lincoln Park.

For Amy Martiny, 28, of Pilsen, Kwapis' well-rounded approach was the biggest draw when she first took a class Kwapis was teaching last spring.

"Generally, it's an interesting topic and she's very willing to go more in-depth than just 'Well, here's how you do it,' and that's it. It's more like, this is each step and this is why it's important, and more about the history of taxidermy and why it's relevant," said Martiny, who works with cadavers being prepped for medical institutions at the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois. "She's very engaged with it."

Kwapis intends to make this methodology central in the classes she and Martiny plan to offer when they open their Niche Lab this fall. The women are looking to rent a space for hosting taxidermy and anatomy workshops, jewelry-making classes and other events that combine art and science—and introduce students to projects or activities they may have been unfamiliar with or squeamish about in the past. "More often than not people really want to know more and they're like, 'Oh, that's really interesting,'" Martiny said. "They're a little bit grossed out, but actually really interested."

Kwapis says they even plan to lead vegan taxidermy courses, where students embalm leaves and flowers. She and Martiny are hoping for a soft opening this summer.

"I absolutely encourage people to follow

KNOW YOUR STUFF

Federal and state laws differ regarding what animals can be taxidermied or sold. For instance, the sale of any dog or cat fur or skin products is federally prohibited, and using roadkill generally is illegal without a special salvaging permit. As these laws are in place to protect the animals, Kwapis urges anyone interested in trying taxidermy to check with their local fish and wildlife service branch first, and only work with instructors who are licensed. **G.P.**

their passion or just try something new, because it could end up being life-changing," Kwapis said. "Three years ago, I never thought that I would go from drinking wine and skinning a squirrel to living here and traveling all over the world, but this is where I'm at and you never know what's around the corner."

So far, Kwapis says, Chicago living is working out even better than expected. In addition to finally being in the same city as business partner Martiny, she's also found a boyfriend who's willing to share her quirky passion. For their first Valentine's Day together last month, he bought a pet rat as a gift for Kwapis, cooked her a fancy dinner and the couple taxidermied a squirrel together in her apartment—where the freezer is stocked with Toaster Strudel and frozen rabbits, and Kwapis' grandfather's worn stuffed bear, tongue and all, hangs on the wall.

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It's just really neat to me to take something that's obviously a lifeless lump of furry meat and make something that looks alive again, and to inspire other people to be interested in that."

—Mickey Alice Kwapis

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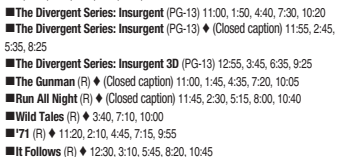
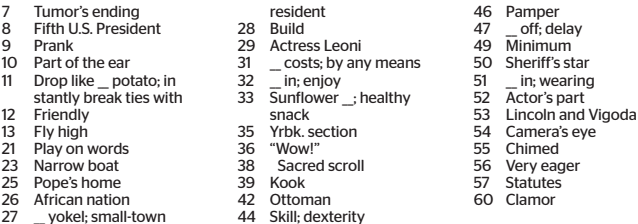
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red hot



Father and friend

Vin Diesel (right) found the ultimate way to honor **Paul Walker**. The “Fast and Furious” actor named his brand-new daughter Pauline after his late friend. “There’s no other person that I’m thinking about as I’m cutting this umbilical cord,” he said Monday on the “Today” show. “I knew he was there and I felt like, you know, a way to keep his memory a part of my memory, a part of my world.” Diesel and girlfriend Paloma Jimenez have three kids together.



HOT DATE

APRIL 18

That’s when **Robyn** is hosting a daylong technology festival in partnership with the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, New York Magazine reports. The festival, Tekla, will feature workshops and motivational speakers dedicated to promoting women in technology. Oh, Robyn, you’re not a fembot, you do have a heart!

Gunn’s Sunday

What’s it like spending an evening with Tim Gunn? If it’s Sunday, you’re going to be watching his stories. “On TV Land they’re running a ‘Golden Girls’ marathon,” he told the New York Times. “I’m a huge ‘Big Bang Theory’ fan. At the People’s Choice Awards two years ago, Johnny Galecki was there. I was like, ‘Oh, my God, it’s Johnny Galecki!’ He said, ‘Is that Tim Gunn around the corner?’ I couldn’t believe he knew who I was.” Insert every heart emoji here.



THE QUOTE

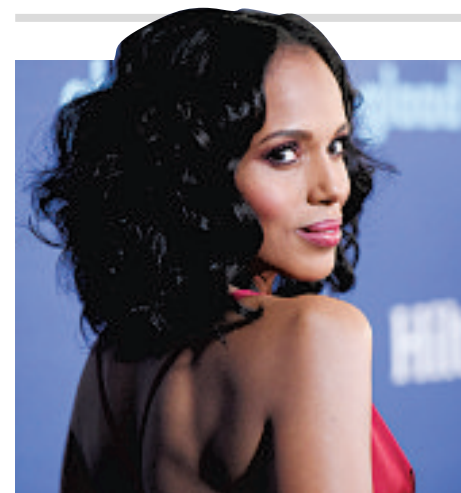
“WHENEVER PEOPLE WANT TO TALK ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS TO BE AN ACTOR, I WANT TO GO, ‘UM, IT’S HARD TO BE A BABY-HEART SURGEON.’ BEING AN ACTOR IS ACTUALLY PRETTY EASY, IF YOU CAN MEMORIZE LINES.”

—**Jon Hamm**, to GQ, ahead of the premiere of the final episodes of “Mad Men”

THE DIGIT



The upcoming sixth season of “Downton Abbey” may be the final one for the PBS mega-hit. **Deadline.com** reports that the show’s end is near, according to multiple sources, and Dame Maggie Smith told the Sunday Times recently, “I can’t see how it could go on. I mean, I certainly can’t keep going. To my knowledge, I must be 110 by now. We’re into the late 1920s.”



THE QUOTE

“IN THE REAL WORLD, BEING AN ‘OTHER’ IS THE NORM. IN THE REAL WORLD, THE ONLY NORM IS UNIQUENESS, AND OUR MEDIA MUST REFLECT THIS.”

—“Scandal” star **Kerry Washington**, in her acceptance speech for the GLAAD Vanguard award Saturday. **AP PHOTO**

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